Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A method for selecting inserts for insertion, the method comprising:

providing a first holding location that is adapted to hold a stack of first inserts;

providing a second holding location that is adapted to hold a stack of second inserts;

providing a first gripping mechanism, wherein the first gripping mechanism includes:

a first gripping jaw, wherein the first gripping jaw includes a first opposing member and a second opposing member, and wherein the first opposing member and the second opposing member are operable to grasp at least one of the first inserts between the first opposing member and the second opposing member at a first contact location; and

a first bar coupled to at least the first opposing member, wherein the first bar comprises an upper portion and a lower portion , wherein the upper portion is coupled to the lower portion via an extensible joint, and wherein a distance from the upper portion to the lower portion at the extensible joint is proportional to the thickness of the at least one of the first inserts;

providing a second gripping mechanism, wherein the second gripping mechanism includes:

a second gripping jaw, wherein the second gripping jaw includes a third opposing member and a fourth opposing member, and wherein the third first opposing member and the fourth opposing member are operable to grasp at least one of the second inserts between the third opposing member and the fourth opposing member at a second contact location;

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a second bar coupled to at least the third opposing member, wherein the bar comprises an upper portion and a lower portion , wherein the upper portion is coupled to the lower portion via an extensible joint, and wherein a distance from the upper portion to the lower portion at the extensible joint is proportional to the thickness of the at least one of the second inserts; and

wherein the first gripping mechanism and the second gripping mechanism are associated with a common rod.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

advancing both the first gripping mechanism and the second gripping mechanism such that the first gripping jaw moves toward the first holding location with the first gripping jaw in an open position, and the second gripping jaw moves toward the second holding location with the second gripping jaw in an open position;

closing the first gripping jaw, wherein at least one of the first inserts is grasped between the first opposing member and the second opposing member, and wherein a distance from the upper portion to the lower portion of the first bar at the extensible joint is proportional to the thickness of the at least one of the first inserts; and

closing the second gripping jaw, wherein at least one of the second inserts is grasped between the third opposing member and the fourth opposing member, and wherein a distance from the upper portion to the lower portion of the second bar at the extensible joint is proportional to the thickness of the at least one of the second inserts.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first gripping mechanism is coupled to a first knuckle and the second gripping mechanism is coupled to a second knuckle, wherein the first knuckle and the second knuckle are coupled to a common rod, and wherein advancing both the first gripping mechanism and the second gripping mechanism includes rotating the rod in a rotational direction such that the first knuckle and the second knuckle move.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first bar is a first extensible bar and wherein the second bar is a second extensible bar, wherein the first gripping mechanism includes a first non-extensible bar and the second gripping mechanism includes a second non-extensible bar, wherein the rod passes through the first non-extensible bar and the second non-extensible bar, and wherein closing the first gripping jaw and the second gripping jaw includes rotating the rod in an opposite rotational direction such that the first knuckle moves causing the first extensible bar to move relative to the first non-extensible bar and causing the first opposing member to move toward the second opposing member at a first contact point and the second knuckle moves causing the second extensible bar to move relative to the second non-extensible bar and causing the third opposing member to move toward the fourth opposing member at a second contact point.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein closing the first gripping jaw and the second gripping jaw includes adjusting the first extensible joint to match a thickness of the at least one of the first inserts and adjusting the second extensible joint to match a thickness of the at least one of the second inserts.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting inserts for insertion, the method comprising:

providing a holding location that is adapted to hold a stack of inserts;

providing a gripping mechanism, wherein the gripping mechanism includes:

a gripping jaw, wherein the gripping jaw includes a first opposing member and a second opposing member; and

a bar coupled to at least the first opposing member, wherein the bar comprises an upper portion and a lower portion, and wherein the upper portion is coupled to the lower portion via an extensible joint,

advancing the gripping mechanism such that the gripping jaw moves toward the holding location with the gripping jaw in an open position; and

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closing the gripping jaw, wherein at least one of the inserts is grasped between the first opposing member and the second opposing member, and wherein the extensible joint adjusts itself to vary a distance between the upper portion and the lower portion of the bar as the gripping jaw closes, and wherein [[a]] the distance from the upper portion to the lower portion of the bar at the extensible joint is proportional to the thickness of the at least one of the inserts.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the gripping mechanism is coupled to a knuckle mounted on a rod, and wherein advancing the gripping mechanism includes rotating the rod such that the knuckle moves causing the gripping mechanism to advance toward the holding location.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the gripping mechanism is further coupled to a cam shaft, and wherein advancing the gripping mechanism further includes moving the cam shaft causing the gripping mechanism to move toward the holding location.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the bar is an extensible bar, wherein the gripping mechanism further comprises a non-extensible bar, wherein the second opposing member is attached to the non-extensible bar, wherein the extensible bar is coupled to a knuckle mounted on a rod, and wherein advancing the gripping mechanism includes rotating the rod in a rotational direction such that the knuckle moves causing the gripping mechanism to advance toward the holding location; and wherein closing the gripping jaw includes rotating the rod in an opposite rotational direction such that the knuckle moves causing the extensible bar to move relative to the non-extensible bar and causing the first opposing member to move toward the second opposing member at a contact point.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the non-extensible bar is coupled to a cam shaft, and wherein advancing the gripping mechanism further includes moving the cam shaft.

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